Protection off SSIs

2466. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether items reserved for small scale sector are freely imported from developed countries;

(b) if so.the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to protect small scale industries from such imports?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) As per the international commitments, India has removed Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), which were being maintained earlier on balance of payment grounds on different items including items reserved for small scale sector.

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of QRs and WTO Agreements on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. While the removal of QRs has exposed the SSIs to greater competition, there has not been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. Even after the removal, of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports, etc. The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive.

Closure off SSIs

† 2467. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of industrial units have to face closure due to sickness in small scale sector during Nineties;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of industrial units of small scale sector closed during the decade; and

(c) the capital that has turned non-productive due to so declared sick industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Sickness is one of the main factors leading to closure of small scale industrial units. The information on closed SSI units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, the number of sick SSI units in the country as at the end of March, 2002 was 1,77,336 and the amount outstanding against these units was Rs. 4818.92 crores.

Indo-lsrael Joint Satellite

2468. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel are to launch a joint satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Israel shares expertise with other countries like US, France, Netherlands etc. also; and

(d) if so, the action taken to ensure that double cross spying does not take place in such collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not known to this Department whether Israel shares expertise with other countries like United States, France, Netherlands, etc.

(d) Does not arise.